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Express Mail No.: **EL 500 578 375 US****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Ovidu Platica

Confirmation No.: 3612

Serial No.: 09/808,504

Art Unit: 1645

Filed: March 14, 2001

Examiner: Whisenant, Ethan C.

For: **METHOD OF SIMULTANEOUS
DETECTION OF BASE CHANGES
(SDBC) IN EXPRESSED GENES**

Attorney Docket No.: 9693-004-999

RECEIVED**FEB 06 2003****REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 WITH AMENDMENT****TECH CENTER 1600/2900**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the outstanding Office Action mailed November 1, 2002, for the above identified patent application, and in accordance with Rule 111 of the Rules of Practice, please consider the following amendments and remarks. Reconsideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested. Applicants also submit concurrently herewith: (a) a copy of the marked up claims as amended (Exhibit A); and (b) a copy of the claims as pending upon entry of the amendment (Exhibit B).

IN THE CLAIMS:

A marked up version of the following amended claims is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Matter that has been deleted from the claims is indicated by brackets and matter that has been added to the claims is indicated by underlining.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 12-14 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 5, 6, 9 and 10 to read as follows:

1. (amended) A method for detecting base changes in a nucleic acid of interest which comprises the following steps: